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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,147	09/24/2003	Mahendra Madhukar Patil	132071	4557

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
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NISKAYUNA, NY 12309

EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,147

Applicant(s)

PATIL ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanitz (U. S. Pat. No. 2,543,993) or Japan'890 (Japan 2-46890) or Berford (U. S. Pat. No. 1,358,507) in vie of Killin (U. S. Pat. No. 2,563,046).

Re claims 1, 11 and 12, note that Stanitz, Japan'890 and Berford are each cited disclosing a fluid-dispenser device for a washing machine having a wash basket (50, see col. 8, lines 11-19 in Stanitz; not shown in Japan'890 and see page 2, lines 85-89 in Berford) defining radii extending in a horizontal plane relative to a circumference in correspondence with respect to said wash basket, the device comprising:

at least two outlet ports (94, 100 in Stanitz; 18, 21 in Japan'890 and 11, 11 see 5 fig. 5 in Berford) positioned to direct respective jets of fluid into the wash basket, each of the jets passing through the respective outlet ports and having a distinctive exit angle relative to a respective radius in said horizontal plane, wherein the exit angle of a first jet differs from the exit angle of a second jet and being pressurized that differs from the claim only in the specific recitation of the basket being movable about an axis and defining a radii. The patent to Killin is cited disclosing the basket movable about an axis and defining a radii as instantly claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of either Stanitz, Japan'890 or Berford, to have the basket movable as taught by Killin, for the purpose of thoroughly

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exposing the articles to be washed to the cleaning fluid. Re claims 2-6, 10, 13, 14 and 15, Stanitz discloses the ports as claimed. Re claims 7, 9, Stanitz, Killin, and Berford disclose the ring. Re claims 16-18, Killin disclose the cycles as claimed.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of either Holden (U. S. Pat. No. 2,161,047) or Beach (U. S. Pat. No. 2,570,021).

Claim 8 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the ring being segmented. Beach and Holden each disclose the segmented ring as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Stanitz, Japan'890 and Berford, to have the ring segmented as taught by either Holden or Beach, for the purpose for allowing for easy installation.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 20, 23-27, 29, 30, 32, 36 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Conlee (U. S. Pat. No. 2,767,569), Borzell (U. S. Pat. No. 2,656,798) or Japan'695 (Japan 8-19695).

Re claims 20 and 36, for example, note that Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695 are each cited disclosing a fluid-dispenser device for a washing machine having a wash basket rotatable about a vertical axis and defining radii extending in a horizontal plane relative

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to a circumference in correspondence with respect to said wash basket, the device comprising:

at least two ports (see fig. 2, in Conlee, 32 in Borzell and 27 in Japan'695) positioned along a common radius to direct respective jets of fluid into a wash basket, each of the jets having a generally parallel relationship with respect to one another.

6. Claims 21, 22 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695 in view Stanitz.

Claims 21, 22 and 37-39 define over Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695 only in the recitation of the exit velocity and angle as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695, to include the velocity and angle as taught by Stanitz, for the purpose of thoroughly applying cleaning liquid to the articles to be washed.

7. Claims 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 20 and 26 above, and further in view of either Holden (U. S. Pat. No. 2,161,047) or Beach (U. S. Pat. No. 2,570,021).

Claims 2 and 31 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the ring being segmented. Beach and Holden each disclose the segmented ring as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695, to have the ring segmented as taught by either Holden or Beach, for the purpose for allowing for easy installation.

8. Claims 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695.

Claims 33-35 define over Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695 only in the recitation of the controller and its related operation. Nonetheless, Conlee, Borzell and Japan'695 disclose typical washing machines having controllers clearly capable of being programmed to function as claimed.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Bonar, Means, Tubman et al., Faber et al., Urban, Won et al., , Japan'565, JJapan'192, Castner et al., Badde, Schwing, Loweke, and Kendig, note the spraying means.

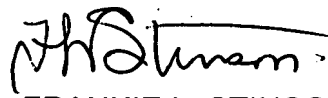
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls


FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
GROUP ART UNIT 1746